



GOOD SHEPHERD

EPISCOPAL CHURCH & SCHOOL

TEQUESTA, FLORIDA

Vestry Highlights

October 2025

The Vestry met on Tuesday, October 21, 2025, for its regular monthly meeting.

A Moment of Gratitude

This month's Moment of Gratitude comes from Ron Doucette, who lifts up **Debbie White** with heartfelt thanks. Debbie has shared her many gifts with Good Shepherd for years — from her leadership as Assistant Choir Director, to guiding our children's voices, and offering soaring solos that fill our sanctuary with beauty. Her creativity extends beyond Good Shepherd, as she also sings with the Masterworks Chorus, serves as a host at the Lighthouse Art Center, and participates in several church fellowship and prayer groups. As Debbie says, *"My faith has brought me to my singing."* For that harmony of faith and music, we offer a resounding Amen.

Security Conversation

The Vestry had an extensive conversation about campus and Sunday morning security. While the Vestry regularly reviews procedures, this discussion arose from recent attacks on churches and schools nationwide. National statistics were reviewed, and there was broad consensus that more should be done to keep the people of Good Shepherd safe while on campus.

Steps were outlined, including conducting a **security audit in 2026** and hosting a **forum** to discuss security on campus. In the meantime, it was agreed that **Good Shepherd will employ an extra-duty police officer each Sunday** until the next Vestry meeting, when feedback can be collected and discussed.

Rector's Report

Father Groff shared much good news from the start of the program year. **Barn Raising**, a new program, has been a success with 16–20 parishioners in regular attendance. The **OWL "Super Seniors Sunday"** was amazing, with participation from many of our seniors—thanks to Meredith Smith.

Good Shepherd was also awarded a **plaque by the South Florida Haiti Project** for its ongoing and robust support of the people of Bondeau, Haiti. In addition, the recent music concert, *Sinews of the Heart*, was well attended and enjoyed by all.

Father Groff also reported that the parish will be transitioning to a **digital scheduling system**, administered by **Lisa Ellington** in the office. This change comes in response to the retirement of Good Shepherd's longtime scheduler, **Karen Rupar**. Father Groff expressed his heartfelt gratitude for her many years of service as the "scheduling guru"!

Senior Warden's Report

Senior Warden **Dan Gilbert** reported that the number of people being served by the **Food Pantry** continues to grow. Good Shepherd will hold an **ingathering of food on Giving Sunday, November 9**, in support of our neighbors in need.

Youth Liaison's Report

Youth Liaison **Sophie Riddle** reported that the **youth group continues to be healthy and strong**. They recently held their first **lock-in of the year** with great joy! Staying overnight in the Parish Hall, the youth baked cookies for the OWLS' Super Seniors Sunday.

Sophie also shared that the group is preparing for the **Sunrise Service on October 25**, where they will serve **freshly baked cinnamon rolls** to attendees.

Financial Reports

The **September financial report** was presented. Year-to-date revenue is approximately **\$27,000 under budget**; however, expenses were **under budget by about \$5,000**, leaving a **net operating income of \$7,900**. While this is a very good report for September, our payroll now supports an almost full complement of staff. Year-end generosity will help ensure we finish the year strong.

A consolidated financial report for September is included below. Questions about the budget or church finances may be directed to Treasurer Mike Greene. For updates on your pledge or giving, please contact Business Manager Lynn Evans.